

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY  
OF THE CITY OF  
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

1. Call to order: 4:30 P.M. Annual and Regular Meeting April 21, 2011 at the Woonsocket Housing Authority, 679 Social Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Chairwoman Lucienne L. Cote  
Vice Chairman Charles Baldelli  
Commissioner Gerard Frappier  
Commissioner David Lahousse  
Commissioner Normand Laliberte – arrived at 4:41  
Commissioner Janet Lemieux  
Commissioner Gerard Remillard

Robert Kulik, Executive Director  
Deputy Director, Duncan Speel  
Attorney Howard Croll

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2. Election of Chair

Secretary asked for nominations for Chairperson. Chairwoman Cote nominated Commissioner David Lahousse.

The Secretary asked twice for other nominations for Chairperson. Hearing none, the Secretary closed the nominations.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the nomination of David Lahousse as Chairman. The following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote  
Vice Chairman Baldelli  
Commissioner Frappier  
Commissioner Lahousse  
Commissioner Lemieux  
Commissioner Remillard

3. Election of Vice Chair

The Chairman asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Vice Chairman Baldelli nominated Commissioner Frappier. Commissioner Frappier extended his thanks but declined the nomination. Commissioner Frappier nominated Commissioner Cote.

The Chairman asked twice for other nominations. Hearing none, the Chairman closed the nominations.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken on the nomination of Lucienne Cote as Vice Chairwoman. The following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairman Lahousse  
Commissioner Cote  
Vice Chairman Baldelli  
Commissioner Frappier  
Commissioner Lemieux  
Commissioner Remillard

The Director extended congratulations to the new Chairman and Vice Chairwoman.

4. Good and Welfare for the Audience - None

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5. Chairman Lahousse asked for a motion to accept the minutes for the meeting of March 17, 2011. A motion was made by Commissioner Baldelli and seconded by Vice Chairwoman Cote.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairman Lahousse  
Vice Chairwoman Cote  
Commissioner Baldelli  
Commissioner Frappier  
Commissioner Lemieux  
Commissioner Remillard

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6. Chairman Lahousse asked for a motion to approve the bills paid for the month of March 2011. A motion was made by Commissioner Frappier and seconded by Commissioner Baldelli.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairman Lahousse  
Vice Chairwoman Cote  
Commissioner Baldelli  
Commissioner Frappier  
Commissioner Lemieux  
Commissioner Remillard

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7. Communications and Interest of the Authority

Chairman Lahousse asked for a motion to receive and place on file the Communications and Interest of the Authority. A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Cote and seconded by Commissioner Frappier.

Vice chairwoman Cote commented on the thoughtfulness of the resident who wrote to commend the WHA maintenance staff, and noted that she agreed with all of the resident’s kind words about the maintenance crew. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairman Lahousse  
Vice Chairwoman Cote  
Commissioner Baldelli  
Commissioner Frappier  
Commissioner Laliberte  
Commissioner Lemieux  
Commissioner Remillard

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8. Report of the Secretary

Chairman Lahousse asked for a motion to receive and place on file, the report of the Secretary, for purposes of discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner Laliberte and seconded by Commissioner Baldelli.

Commissioner Baldelli asked for an update on the possibility of the remaining 18 scattered site units being used to house homeless veterans. The Director said the community partners are looking for federal funds; they are very interested in purchasing these properties, but it will take some time.

The Director submitted his report as written, highlighting the fact that it is the intention of the WHA to continue to fight for the demo/dispo at Veteran's Memorial. The SAC's response was insulting, and we will respond to their response to our FOIA request. Three local social service agencies are holding this plan up; the Director and Deputy will meet next week with the architect, Mapplan, Joe Garlick and Ben Lessing to present a new plan. The WHA is looking to demo the same number of units, but spread it out over the entire development because the property there cannot be developed for any other use. It is important to the WHA to continue the fight to take people out of poverty and give them a opportunity to move on through the voucher program. There will be a special meeting to update the Board in May of June.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the "Ayes" and "Nays".

AYES

NAYS

Chairman Lahousse  
Vice Chairwoman Cote  
Commissioner Baldelli  
Commissioner Frappier  
Commissioner Laliberte  
Commissioner Lemieux  
Commissioner Remillard

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8B. Report of the Deputy Director

Chairman Lahousse asked for a motion to receive and place on file, the report of the Deputy, for purposes of discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner Laliberte and was seconded by Vice Chairwoman Cote.

The Deputy submitted his report as written, highlighting the bids on the brick façade have to go back for re-design to get them in line with our budget. Hopefully we can go back out for just two weeks. The overhead electric project is proceeding at Morin and Veterans. There is a meeting next week on the assisted living project with Gaskill Associates and United Methodist Elder Care, and then we will be looking for support from our elected officials because we do not have HUD in our corner. There was some discussion with Commissioner Laliberte about the fact that HUD subsidizes other similar programs in RI. The Director indicated that WHA representatives may end up fighting in Washington over this issue.

The Deputy informed the Board that HTVN on-line training is available for staff and Commissioners through one of our insurance carriers.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”

AYES

NAYS

Chairman Lahousse  
Vice Chairwoman Cote  
Commissioner Baldelli  
Commissioner Frappier  
Commissioner Laliberte  
Commissioner Lemieux  
Commissioner Remillard

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9C. Reports of Direct Staff, Legal and Financial

Chairman Lahousse asked for a motion to receive and place on file, the reports of Direct Staff, Legal and Financial. A motion was made by Commissioner Laliberte and was seconded by Vice Chairwoman Cote.

Commissioner Baldelli asked the attorney for a one-page summary of the cases on the Status Report, in addition to all of the detail in the status pages. The attorney agreed.

Commissioner Baldelli asked the attorney to draft legislation supporting assisted living in public housing. The Director stated that the General Assembly does not control the funds for public housing. Commissioner Baldelli stated that is would help support the WHA’s presentation to HUD. Commissioner Laliberte will request the same information from the City Council. The attorney stated that he does not believe it will carry any weight.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”

AYES

NAYS

Chairman Lahousse  
Vice Chairwoman Cote  
Commissioner Baldelli  
Commissioner Frappier  
Commissioner Laliberte  
Commissioner Lemieux  
Commissioner Remillard

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- 10. Report of Committees -None
- 11. Unfinished Business - None
- 12. New Business

Chairman Lahousse asked for a motion to accept Resolution #1084: An addendum to Resolution # 1080 General Code Article II Smoke-Free Policy in WHA Housing; § 28-5; Prohibition in high-rises as follows: **A specific exterior smoking area will be designated at all Woonsocket Housing Authority properties for the use of residents, visitors and employees.** A motion was made by Commissioner Frappier and seconded by Commissioner Baldelli.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”

AYES

NAYS

Chairman Lahousse  
  
Commissioner Baldelli  
Commissioner Frappier  
Commissioner Laliberte  
Commissioner Lemieux

Vice Chairwoman Cote

Commissioner Remillard

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## 10. Adjournment

Chairman Lahousse asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Commissioner Laliberte, seconded by Commissioner Baldelli at 5:13 p.m.

Roll call vote was unanimous.

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Robert Kulik, Executive Director